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IN ADVANCE.

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THE CRUISER MAINE WAS
DELIBERATELY DESTROYED.Army and Navy Register Publishes
This Information

WHICH SHOW THE CAUSE

Of the War Preparations Made
During the Past Few Days

BY THE UNITED STATES.

Bids for Shot and Shell Opened—Torpedoes for Key West—The New War Map Made Up—North Carolina is in the Division of the East, and South Carolina in the Gulf Division. Missouri and Texas Departments Abolished.

The Army and Navy Register, in its issue of the 12th, says: "The Register is in possession of information, the correctness of which it has no reason to question, that certain evidence, gathered by the court of inquiry at Havana, has come in a semi-official form to the President from two prominent members of the board. The information has been in the hands of the President since Sunday and has been the occasion of the unusual activity during the present week."

The information is that the Maine destroyed by a government submarine, planted in Havana harbor deliberately exploded. More than it appears that the Maine was actually moored in the vicinity of the mine, and that the explosion occurred at a moment when the ship had been opportunely carried by wind and tide directly over the mine. These facts have been hinted at and written about in dispatches from Havana and Madrid, and among the varied statements made the actual conditions have been touched upon, but nothing authoritative has been permitted to escape from the court.

"That body is understood to have completed its work, but nothing is likely to be officially promulgated in regard to its findings for a week or more. There is obvious reason for such action, the objects of which cannot be defeated by independent newspaper statements. There can be but one outcome of such a report, and preparations for the inevitable results are being industriously and indefatigably prosecuted. The work of the week shows that the government at Washington appreciates the situation and will be ready to meet what has now ceased to be a mere emergency."

LOOKED EAST.

Nearly the Regular Army to Be Sent to the Atlantic.

Washington—(Special).—Substantial evidence that the regular army of the United States will be brought to the seaboard with all possible speed, including all possible cavalry, artillery and infantry, will be moved to forts in the Atlantic and Gulf States. Only sufficient troops will be left in the West to prevent any possible Indian uprising. Orders to mobilize the twenty-four thousand soldiers are in preparation and will be issued by the War Department as soon as the plans for transportation of the troops can be made.

This action of the authorities furnishes conclusive evidence that the government has advanced beyond the stage of preparing for trouble as a precautionary measure. It now anticipates trouble and expects it. The annual appropriation for transportation is wholly insufficient to move this great body. It has been determined to draw upon the \$10,000,000 fund for this purpose.

It has been decided that Gen. Merritt command any military forces sent to Cuba by the United States.

Bids for Shot and Shell. The War Department at once will bid for one of the largest orders of shot and shell for heavy calibre guns given, including armor-piercing shells, and demoralizing and torpedoes.

THE WAR MAP.

Will Be in the Division of the East and S. C. in the Gulf. The War Department or the new Department

Headquarters of the Army, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, March 11th, 1898.

The following orders have been received from the War Department and for the guidance of all concerned: War Department, Washington, March 11, 1898.

By direction of the President the following changes are made in the territorial limits, designation and headquarters of geographical departments: The Department of the East will embrace the New England States, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina, with headquarters at Governor's Island, New York.

2. A department is hereby established to be known as the Department of the Lakes, to consist of the States of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, with headquarters at Chicago, Ill.

3. The Department of the West will embrace the States of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Nebraska, with headquarters at St. Paul, Minn.

4. The Department of the Columbia will embrace the State of Washington, Oregon, Idaho (except so much of the State as is embraced in the Yellowstone National Park) and the territory of Alaska, with headquarters at Vancouver Barracks, Washington.

5. The Department of California will embrace the States of California and Nevada, with headquarters at San Francisco, Cal.

6. The Department of the Colorado will embrace the States of Washington, except so much thereof as is embraced in the Yellowstone National Park, Colorado and Utah and the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico, with headquarters at Denver, Col.

7. The Department of the Platte will embrace the States of Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas, the Indian Territory and the Territory of Oklahoma, with headquarters at Omaha, Neb.

8. A department is hereby established to be known as the Department of the Gulf, to consist of the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, with headquarters at Atlanta.

The Departments of the Missouri and Texas are hereby abolished. The records of the Department of the Missouri will be transferred to the Department of the Lakes, and those of the Department of Texas to the Department of the Gulf.

Major General John T. Brooke is to be in command of the Department of the Lakes, and Brigadier General William M. Graham to the command of the Department of the Gulf. The officers of the several staff departments now on duty in the Departments of Missouri and Texas are assigned to like duties in the Departments of the Lakes and of the Gulf, respectively.

The transfer required under these orders is necessary for the public service.

R. A. AGEN, Secretary of War.
By command of Major General Miles: H. C. CONN, Adjutant General.

Talked Peace.

On the 12th the new Spanish envoy Don Luis Polo y Bernabe in presenting his address and his credentials to the President expressed the hope that he would be able to cement more closely the friendly feeling between the two countries. President McKinley replied, saying he would do all in his power to "draw the two countries more closely together on a friendly footing."

Ordered From Fort Riley.

Orders received at Fort Riley, near Junction City, Kan., directed the sending of three batteries of artillery to the South. Battery B, of the Fourth Artillery, Captain Anderson, commanding, will go to Fort Monroe, Va.; Battery F, also of the Fourth, Captain Taylor, goes to Savannah, Ga., and Battery F, of the Fifth, Captain Riley, to New Orleans.

Torpedoes for Key West Harbor.

The steamer City of Key West, from Miami, has just landed two car-loads of torpedoes and torpedo buoys at Key West, Fla. These will be laid in this harbor.

Strength of the Spanish Navy.

The Liberal gives the following as the present strength of the Spanish navy: Protected ships 17, unprotected 20, gunboats 80, torpedo boat destroyers 14, torpedo boats 14, transports 25.

Loan of \$60,000,000.

The American Embassy in London has received information that Spain has raised sixty millions for the purchase of warships, and that this amount was secured from a London bank.

Plenty of Ships Available.

The latest from Washington says an office will be opened at 20 Countland street, New York, at which owners and agents for ships will be invited to make their proposals for turning over to the navy such vessels as are of value for war purposes. The naval officials say there will be no difficulty experienced in obtaining all the vessels that are desired as there are hundreds available.

Finishing Up Cannon.

At the Washington gun factory there are now in various stages of construction no less than 150 guns of formidable character, on which work is being done night and day, with a view to their early completion. No new guns are being started, but the entire efforts of the factory are devoted to finishing those

for probably 30 more auxiliary cruisers, should so large a fleet be found necessary to supplement the regular warships.

Perfecting Plans to Move Troops.

The government is perfecting plans for the movement of troops from coast defenses, orders for which have been issued by the War Department and published. A conference was held at Washington by representatives of the following railroads, to arrange for the transportation of light artillerymen and their accoutrements: The Atlantic Coast Line, the Southern Railway, the Seaboard Air Line and the Chesapeake and Ohio.

Florida's State Troops.

From all reports coming into the Adjutant General's office at Tallahassee, Fla., and letters from commanders of companies, it is learned that the Florida State troops are now recruited up to the full legal standard, with offers of enough men to put three times more in the field in a week. In Tampa and Jacksonville especially the war fever is strong, and the commanders of companies there, both infantry and artillery, report offers of hundreds beyond their needs.

Spain Will Not Provoke War.

Madrid—(By Cable).—The view held in official circles is that Spain will not provoke war, because if she did, she would find herself isolated, but if America gives the provocation, Spain will not be alone in the struggle. The general opinion is that in the event of war, Spain will not need to attack American territory. It will suffice her to pursue a war of privateering. As America's commerce is seven-fold greater than Spain's, American interests would suffer most. War would be madness, benefiting neither nation, and good sense, therefore, counsels peace.

Working Day and Night.

At Wilmington, Del., the powder works of the E. I. Dupont-DeNemours Company is now working day and night on a government order for hexagonal powder for the big guns. In addition some of the buildings are being enlarged and additional machinery is being put in. The daily capacity of the works is said to be 10 tons of hexagonal powder.

POLLOCK'S PLATFORM.

He Issues An Address to the Democracy of the District of Columbia.

The Hon. J. M. Pollock, of Chicago, who is one of the ten or more candidates for Dr. Strait's place in Congress, has issued the following platform:

To the Democracy of the Fifth Congressional District: Believing in rotation in office, not only in respect to men, but also in respect to the different sections which are represented by any officer, and believing that Chesterfield county, which has never had a native born representative in Congress, is entitled to some consideration at the hands of the other counties in this district, I hereby announce myself a candidate for Congress from the 5th Congressional district, subject to the Democratic primary. I shall stand upon my record made in the General Assembly of South Carolina during the past four sessions of that body, and hereby declare my allegiance to the principles set forth in the Democratic platform as adopted at Chicago in 1896.

I favor the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1; the repeal of the prohibitive tax of 10 per cent. on the issue of state banks; an amendment to the Constitution of the United States permitting the assessment and collection of an income tax; the restriction of the tariff so that it will only provide sufficient revenue for the economic administration of the government; the curtailment of the extravagant and outrageous appropriations for pensions and for rivers and harbors, and the destruction of the shameful and ruinous system of gambling in futures, by which the wheat of the law of supply and demand on the price of cotton and other agricultural products has been destroyed, and by which the gamblers of Wall street have been enabled to fix the price which the toiling receive as compensation for their labor to a large extent.

THE COLORED MILL.

Pickaninies Learning to Manipulate the Looms.

The colored cotton mill at Columbia, says The Register, will be opened for work about April 15th. Several looms have been gotten into position already, and half a dozen pickaninies about 15 years old are industriously learning the difference between "the warp" and "woof" and "combs" and "cards." The expert mill men teach them declare that they make apt scholars and learn the intricacies of the looms readily.

The question of the negro's capacity being settled, the next which suggests itself is his "stickability." The negro is, as a rule, musical and musically-loving, sentimental and sensitive, faithful to others but negligent of self, and his cup of happiness is easily filled. But the negro race has made wonderful strides in recent years, and has assimilated many of the industrial habits of the "Yankees." The colored man best expresses this in the fact that he is now an average American citizen.

The negro is more and more becoming acquainted with the realities of life and of the future, and it is probable that when this avenue for employment is offered to him he will see its advantages and stick to it.

If the business part of the mill is managed properly, and the negro's interest is kept up by those in charge, the result will be of great success.

WE ARE READY FOR WAR.

We Can Obtain All the Ships We Want.

WE GET THE "AMAZONAS."

Reports That Autonomy in Cuba Is a Failure—Preparations for Defense Going Forward Rapidly.

Washington—(Special).—"We are prepared for war," says Hon. John D. Long, secretary of the navy. "I am confident in saying that we can obtain all the warships we want."

He added, "Several war vessels can become ours at an hour's notice. We have concluded our plans for transforming merchant vessels into armored ships, but we will not take possession of them until the necessity for them arises. We are fully prepared for war."

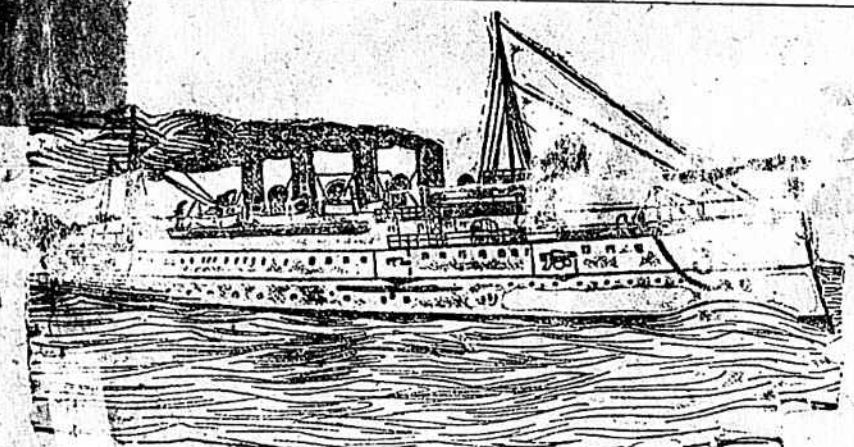
The United States has bought the battleship "Amazonas," which will be transferred and placed under the American flag as soon as arrangements can be completed for turning her over to an American crew.

Spain has bought the Chilean battleship "O'Higgins," and the Spanish flag will be hoisted over her within a few days, when she leaves the Tyne. This is stated on authority.

Senator Proctor made a report to the President on the 14th declaring that autonomy in Cuba is a failure and that the Maine was destroyed by design. He called at the war department.

The developments in the Cuban situation have been confined during the past few days to the continuation of active preparations made by the war and navy departments, preparing for a possible conflict with Spain.

Hispanic negotiations with Spain have been practically suspended since the Maine was blown up and with re-



UNITED STATES CRUISER COLUMBIA.

(She is shown as a commerce destroyer, her mission being to prey upon an enemy's merchant marine rather than to have a place in the fighting line. She has triple masts and only the very fleetest of the ocean greyhounds can escape her. The Columbia has just been ordered in commission.)

gard to the general question, Cuban freedom, have not been renewed.

The President was hopeful a few months ago that by this time negotiations would be brought to a head. The blowing up of the Maine interrupted these diplomatic negotiations.

Unless the report of the naval board of inquiry is hastened it will be impracticable for the President to bring the controversy to an end during the present session of Congress. Both branches are rushing through necessary legislation for the purpose of early adjournment. They will let the President settle the Cuban question.

The Schenck-Powder Company has received a cash order for a hundred tons of powder from the government. The works are the largest for the manufacture of powder in this country.

A big consignment of shells for submarine mining has arrived at Key West, Fla.

The work of transferring three hundred artillery men ordered to Sandy Hook began on the 14th. Preparations were commenced early at Fort Hamilton and Wadsworth. Dozens of eight, ten and twelve inch steel rifles are at Sandy Hook ready for mounting. When engineers are through the fortification will be among the strongest in the world.

All the women and children under 16 years of age have been removed from the Hook.

A hundred mason workers, and other machines are at the additional quarters for

Fatal Fire in New York.

In a fire at New York in a Bowery lodging house, five men were burned to death, and twenty others injured.

Bryan Talks in Montana.

Hon. Wm. J. Bryan, of Montana, Ga., in the State of Montana. His address was along the line of argument.

Distinguished Men.

General William S. Rosecrans died at Redondo, Cal., on the 14th, after a long illness. He was 71 years of age. His son and daughter, Carl and Anna, were with him. Rosecrans was a friend of the family. Rosecrans had a fine record in the civil war. He served in the Mexican war and was in California.

Gen. William G. Mackey at Alexandria, Va., died on the 14th. He was 71 years of age. He was a friend of the family. Mackey was a friend of the family. Mackey was a friend of the family.

For the Good.

GRAIN IN FARMERS' HANDS.

120,000,000 Bushels of Wheat, 783,000,000 Corn, 272,000,000 Oats.

The consolidated returns of the different crop reporting agencies of the department of agriculture made up to March 1 show the wheat reserves in farmers' hands on that date to have been the equivalent of 22.9 per cent. of last year's crop, or about 121,000,000 bushels. This is 33,000,000 bushels in excess of the farm reserve reported one year ago, but the result of the special wheat investigation made to the department last fall would indicate that the crop of 1896 was larger than the department had reason to believe at the time. The proportion of the crop of 1897 shipped beyond country lines is 50.7 per cent.

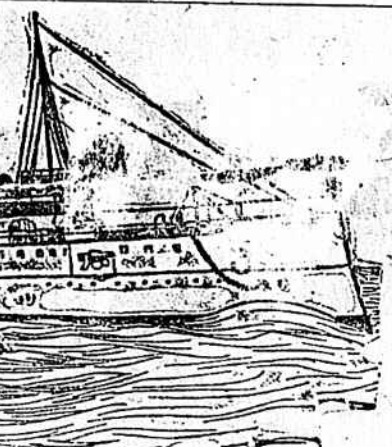
The corn in farmers' hands as estimated aggregates 733,000,000 bushels or 41.1 per cent. of last year's crop, as against 1,164,000,000 bushels or 51.0 per cent. on hand on March 1, 1897, and 1,072,000,000 bushels or 49.8 per cent. on March 1st, 1896.

The proportion of the total crop shipped out of the country where grown is estimated 21.8 per cent. or about 412,000,000 bushels. The proportion of the total crop exportable is estimated at 36.8 per cent.

Of oats there are estimated to be about 272,000,000 bushels, or 38.9 per cent. still in farmers' hands, as compared with 315,000,000 bushels, or 44.2 per cent. on March 1, 1897. The proportion of the crop shipped beyond country lines is estimated at 29.2 per cent.

The Enemy's Ships Coming.

A special dispatch from Cadix, Spain, announces that the Spanish squadron has sailed from that port. It is understood that the Spanish warships are going to Porto Rico, where they will wait the orders of Captain-General Blanco. Enthusiastic crowds of people gathered to bid farewell to the war vessels.



UNITED STATES CRUISER COLUMBIA.

(She is shown as a commerce destroyer, her mission being to prey upon an enemy's merchant marine rather than to have a place in the fighting line. She has triple masts and only the very fleetest of the ocean greyhounds can escape her. The Columbia has just been ordered in commission.)

BRYAN AND MCKINLEY.

Their Homes to Be Reproduced at Omaha Exposition.

Senator J. M. Thurston, chairman of the Senate committee on Expositions, recently suggested that the McKinley home at Canton be reproduced at the Omaha Exposition. The board of managers approved the idea. The building when constructed will be used as a place of reception for Ohioans and it is proposed to exhibit therein many mementos of the late campaign, avoiding, as far as possible, anything savoring of partisanship. Noting the action of the board of managers, the friends of William Jennings Bryan lost no time in putting a proposition looking to the reproduction of the Bryan homestead at Lincoln. The board of managers have unanimously voted authority to the buildings and grounds department to allow the space for such building, making a proviso, as was done in the McKinley homestead, that the exhibits be non-partisan and not for sale.

Reward for Lynchers.

Governor Atkinson, of West Virginia, has offered a reward of \$250 for the arrest and conviction of the lynchers who hanged a negro named Bailey at Bramwell, in that State about a month ago.

Millionaire Joel Killed.

Woolf Joel, the South African millionaire, nephew of Barney Barnato, was shot and instantly killed by a man named Feldheim. The murderer was arrested.

Mining Millionaire Dead.

E. C. Bassick, who located a famous Colorado silver mine, and by it became a millionaire, died at Denver.

A Kansas Law Violated.

In the United States Supreme Court at Washington, an opinion has been handed down by Justice Harlan, in the case of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad Company vs. Charles E. Barber, affirming the constitutionality of the State laws of Kansas prohibiting the transportation of negroes for a civil action against a white person.

The Great European.

France, the great European power, is now the victor in the war. It is now the victor in the war. It is now the victor in the war.

FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

Proceedings of Both the Senate and House Day by Day.

THE SENATE.

58TH DAY.—The Senate passed the emergency bill, carrying \$180,000 for deficiencies, and placing at the disposal of the President \$50,000,000 for defence. The vote by which the measure was passed was unanimous. Sixty-six short, sharp and emphatic speeches were delivered in favor of the bill, each one being simply a ringing "aye," during the roll call upon the passage of the measure. Not only every Senator present registered his vote in favor of the bill, but for every absent member the authoritative announcement was made that if he were present he would vote "aye." Bacon's amendment to the Hawaiian annexation treaty was under discussion during an executive session of the Senate today. The amendment provides that the treaty shall not become operative until ratified by a majority of the members of the Hawaiian islands.

59TH DAY.—The Senate today had no business of real importance, and adjourned until Monday.

60TH DAY.—During its session of three hours, the Senate passed a considerable number of bills from the general calendar. The number one authorizing the construction of eight new revenue cutters not exceeding an aggregate of \$1,037,000. A resolution passed by Chandler, of New Hampshire, authorizing the committee on naval affairs to send for persons and papers in the course of the investigation of the Maine disaster was adopted. Among other bills passed were: To increase the pension of Mrs. Lotitia Tyler Semple, a daughter of President John Tyler, to \$50 a month.

61ST DAY.—After the passage of numerous bills from the calendar, the Senate began the consideration of the measure providing for a national system of quarantine. The bill beyond the reading of the title was accomplished. Some desultory discussion occurred on an amendment but no progress was made on the bill. Among the bills passed were the following: To authorize the sale of Alabama and Tennessee road company to build a bridge across the Alabama river at Wilcox, Ala., to establish a light house on the coast of the Cape Verde islands to extend the uses of the mail service, the plan being to adopt the return postal card of the United States Economic Company.

THE HOUSE.

63D DAY.—The House devoted itself to routine business. The legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill went through its last stages in the adoption of the final conference report, and the remainder of the day was consumed in the consideration of the Senate amendments to the Indian appropriation bill.

64TH DAY.—In the House the Senate amendment to the Indian appropriation bill was voted down. The naval appropriation bill has been practically completed by the House committee on naval affairs, save as to the question of increases in the navy, dry docks and armor plating. There have been few changes from the estimates, and the bill will involve in the neighborhood of \$30,000,000, aside from new vessels, dry docks and armor.

65TH DAY.—The bill to pay the Bowman act claims, aggregating \$1,200,000 for stores and supplies furnished the Union army during the war, was passed by the House until 5 o'clock, but beyond completing the general debate, little progress was made. Of the 800 odd claims in the bill all but a few come from the South and dilatory tactics were resorted to to prevent progress with the bill. In a speech favoring the bill, Mr. Gibson, (Rep.) of Tennessee, said the claims were distributed as follows by States: Alabama, 60; Arkansas, 56; Georgia, 42; Illinois, 1; Kansas, 3; Kentucky, 56; Louisiana, 22; Maryland, 70; Mississippi, 109; Missouri, 51; New York, 1; North Carolina, 12; Ohio, 2; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 4; South Carolina, 2; Tennessee, 180; Virginia, 66; and West Virginia, 46. The House then adjourned until Monday.

66TH DAY.—This being the second Monday of the month, it was given over, under the rules, to the consideration of business relating to the District of Columbia. The District business was concluded at 4:35 p. m. A few Senate bills were passed and at 5 o'clock the House adjourned.

67TH DAY.—The House agreed to consider the bill for the relief of the legal heirs of the Maine disaster. A motion was taken up in the House, which was carried, and the bill was passed.

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